MAR 1952 51-40

CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED SECURITY INFORMATION CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY

GDR, German Federal Republic, USSR

DATE OF

SUBJECT

Political - Foreign policy

INFORMATION

1953

HOW

PUBLISHED Weekly periodical

DATE DIST. & Dec 1953

WHERE

PUBLISHED

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE

PUBLISHED

16 Sep 53

Hamburg

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE German

REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

Der Spiegel, Vol VII, No 38

WEST GERMAN REPORT THAT ADENAUER'S RE-ELECTION WILL CAUSE USSR TO WIDEN EAST-WEST GERMAN SPLIT

 $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$ omment: This report summarizes a news story which appeared in the Hamburg weekly periodical Der Spiegel. The periodical, following its usual practice in stories of this kind, makes no mention of its source of information.

On 7 September 1953 at 1130 hours, a meeting of the GDR Politburo was held at the "House of Unity" in East Berlin. The 13 Politburo members were forced to wait a half hour for the arrival of Soviet High Commissioner Semenov. Semenov cut short an opening speech by Minister President Ulbricht with the words: "We don't want to waste time with introductory remarks. Let's get down to business." He then chided the Politburo for the optimistic reports and forecasts issued by the SED (Socialist Unity Perty) West Department. according to which a Social Democratic victory in West Germany should have been expected.

After his short, sharp speech, Semenov left the Politburo to attend a meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers. There he repeated his accusations, and added that the Soviet Union would now be forced to re-examine her foreign policy, and that economic achievements would be the only argument which the GDR could use effectively in the East-West conflict.

On 8 September, Semenov amplified this statement to his staff at Karlshorst. According to a reliable report from Karlshorst, the gist of Semenov's statement was as follows: The fateful result of the West German elections has created an entirely new situation, so that the basis of previous Soviet offers to negotiate and to make concessions would have to be revised in any case. Semenov gave a vague indication of how far the Soviet willingness to make concessions would

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have gone, had there been a West German government willing to negotiate. He told his listeners of conversations between German and Polish negotiators, brought together at Soviet insistence, around 20 August 1953.

One interpreter took down the following sentence, which characterizes the expected Soviet reaction to the West German election results: "The Soviet Union feels uneasy about the previously latent restoration tendencies of the West German policy, which have now been confirmed by the results of the elections. As a consequence of the policy of concession, which was in force until now, the Soviet Union must now deepen the split."

Further consequences of the Soviet displeasure at the outcome of the West German elections were indicated by Alfred Neumann, the First Secretary of the Berlin SED, in a confidential meeting of East Berlin SED officials. Neumann the feeling of being blockaded again. In addition to give the West Berliners the State Security Service also wants to start "special missions" in West Berlin. Details about this plan were given by Berlin State Security Chief Morgenthal to his subordinates in the presence of State Secretary Ernst Wollweber.

It is to be noted in this connection that Allied intelligence services have been detecting increased activities by agents from East Germany for quite some time.

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